

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Two Things to Remember

1. That there remains but little more than one week of time during which to raise the balance of the first payment on the Washington City church building. In connection with this fact remember also that the report of the last week is exceedingly encouraging. The church has done nobly; the zeal manifested thru-out the brotherhood is most commendable, and we have every reason to believe that there will be no relaxation of effort until the entire amount is in the hands of the Secretary. So mote it be. The amount now raised should be sufficient to redeem all pledges that were conditionally made. Let the cash be forwarded, and the business despatched as speedily as possible.

2. That the price of the EVANGELIST from now to the end of the year is but one dollar, and that this is the opportune time to increase the subscription list to three thousand. We trust that all our agents and pastors, and every one interested in widening the influence of the EVANGELIST will take advantage of this special offer. How many members in your congregation are without the church paper? Do you know, pastors? Are there any who can not afford to take the paper? You ought to know. Make a canvass of the entire congregation, and, if after a reasonable effort, you fail to introduce the paper, send us the names of those whom you can not persuade to subscribe.

An Old Problem

Some of the ideas brought us by the Indian teachers are as queer as their names. Thus Bipin Chandra Pal, apparently a very well educated Buddhist, tells America, and tells the world, thru a great New York newspaper, that "when the Hindoos were barbarians—over three thousand years ago—as you are, they had the temperance problem that torments you now." One of their mortal sins,—one of a list of five—is drinking spirituous liquors. Four hundred years ago the vice was nearly exterminated, when the English came and changed everything for the worse, so far as liquor drinking was concerned. "They brought the Bible and the bottle, Milton and Madeira." "Indulgence in spirituous liquors became a symbol of emancipation from old ideas." It is not, as the world knows, a mere

slander. This very day civilized America sends the damnation of rum and the salvation of Christ to the heathen in the *same ship*. Beneath the decks, piously trod by the self-sacrificing missionary, are stowed barrels upon barrels of beer and bloat. The Bible and the bottle are still traveling companions. The Hawaiian islands, but recently brought under the flag of the union are struggling to insert prohibition of the liquor traffic into their constitution. But as this constitution is to be passed upon by the American government at Washington, all who know the power of the damnable traffic, all who remember the recent iniquity of the "canteen," are well aware that the prayers of the islanders will doubtless fall upon deaf ears, and the hell of drink will be firmly established upon their shores. Every account of the hundreds of drink shops which have followed the American army to Manilla testifies to the pandemonium and ruin let loose there, in the name, and under the protection of our flag. To the Filipinos the most conspicuous symbol of the new order of things is reeling and blasphemous debauchery. It is a *frightful* picture. When will Christians become sick of it? When will the horrible iniquity of the saloon strike home to the conscience of the church? No wonder that the heathen tell us to take the beam out of our own eyes before attempting to relieve them of the mote. It is peculiar that alcoholism seems to be the exclusive disease of the Christian civilization. The Buddhist eschews it. The Mohammedans are not afflicted with it. Drunkenness is not a national sin in Turkey or in Arabia, as it is in England and in America. No wonder that when we go to them with our neat brushes of Christian morality they feel inclined to return the compliment by presenting us with enormous brooms for the benefit of our own front doors. They are unable to appreciate that discriminating logic which separates sins peculiar to the west from the *religion* of the west. They hold that the religion which brings the bottle is *responsible* for the bottle, and the trouble about this idea is that it doesn't occupy a very comfortable distance from the ugly truth. A society which tolerates the saloon is essentially barbarous. Its claim to civilization is a mere conceit. As long as the dram shop reigns supreme in our land we are as far from a real Christian civilization as a coarse bar-tender is from the superior elevation of a Christian gentleman,